

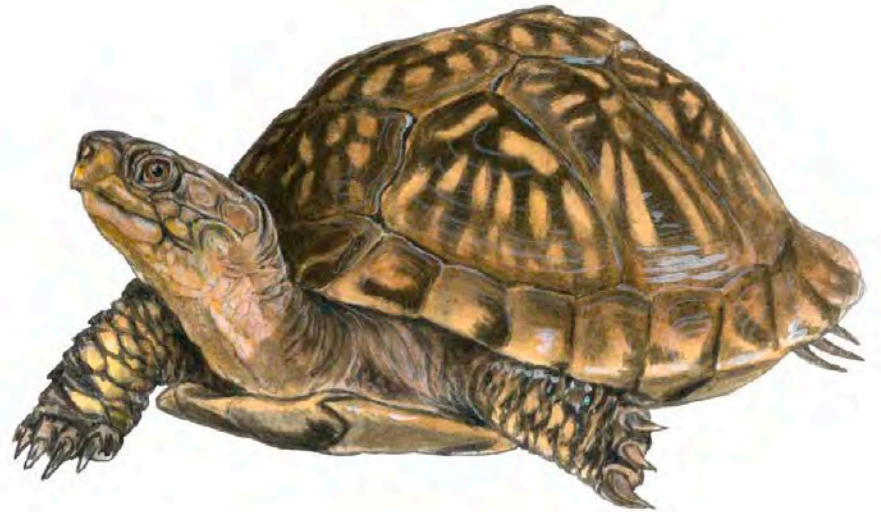


## Summer, Time for Turtles

**J**une is the start of summer in the Show-Me-State. For many this means no more classes until August, spending time by the lake, or taking vacations to visit relatives. June is a great time to relax, travel, and explore.

Warmer weather not only means that there will be more people travelling the busy highways of Missouri. It also means there will be more turtles out and about. June marks the peak breeding, and beginning of the egg laying, season for many of these hard-shelled reptiles. During this time, turtle sightings will become more frequent. Missouri boasts 17 species of turtles. They range in size from the rare Alligator snapping turtle, which can weigh up to 150 pounds, to the Common musk turtle, also commonly referred to as the Stinkpot. Even though most of these turtles are primarily aquatic, with the exceptions being Missouri's two terrestrial box turtle species, all may travel overland. Like humans, turtles travel for a variety of reasons. Male turtles travel in pursuit of females. Females travel in search of a proper nesting area. While moving from place to place, turtles are extremely vulnerable to attack. Although it is true that their shells are great for protecting them from would-be predators, they do little to protect from their greatest foe... humans. Each year, many thousands of turtles are killed as they move about during the summer season. Many are hit by vehicles, some are wrongfully persecuted and killed, and others are kept as a pet, which often leads to the demise of the turtle. Many of these deaths can be avoided by following a few simple guidelines.

1. Always use caution when driving. Watch for turtles, and other wildlife. While it is unsafe to swerve for turtles, many turtle deaths can be avoided by driving the posted speed limits and remaining vigilant.
2. Do not keep turtles as pets. Wild turtles that are kept as pets often die due to stress. In addition, avoid handling wild turtles. Like all animals the risk of injury to the turtle and handler increase dramatically when they are being handled.
3. Turtles are often blamed for "overfishing" a pond, and are killed because of it. Although some species eat an occasional meal of live fish, the majority of a turtle's diet is composed of vegetation, invertebrates, and carrion. Turtles are a healthy addition to aquatic ecosystems around the state.
4. Report turtle poachers to Operation Game Thief. Smooth and spiny softshell turtles and the common snapping turtles are the only game turtles in the state of Missouri. They may be harvested in a variety of ways. However, shooting turtles is illegal. See Chapter 6 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* for information on harvesting turtles.



Turtles have been in existence for millions of years. They are a very unique and well adapted group of organisms. Take the time to appreciate this amazing group of animals as you travel this summer. Remember to stay safe and remain vigilant as you explore Missouri.

By AUSTIN LAMBERT, naturalist

# Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/299](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/299)



From the east/St. Louis  
I-44 west to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire. One hundred feet to entrance.

From the west/Eureka  
I-44 east to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

## HOURS:

April 1 – November 30

Wednesday: 11 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Thursday and Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Friday and Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

December 1 – March 31

Wednesday – Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-938-9548** or email [henges.range@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:henges.range@mdc.mo.gov) with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. Up to two reservations are allowed per registration; groups should contact the range for more information. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

## Women's Beginning Handgun

June 2 • Thursday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 16 and up)

This program will include: safety, basic operation, shooting fundamentals, maintenance, ammunition for hunting or target shooting, safe firearm storage and regulations for hunting with a handgun. We will start with a classroom session then advance to a live-fire session. All firearms and safety equipment will be provided. If you wish to bring your own firearm, you must bring your own factory ammunition. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin May 19.)

## Beginning Archery

June 9 • Thursday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 9 and up)

Acquire the knowledge, skills and attitude necessary to safely participate in this fun and rewarding outdoor activity. Our instructors will help all participants develop their archery skills as we cover bow types, parts of the bow, arrows, proper stance, grip, form, release, and other important tips and techniques. All bows and safety equipment will be provided. (Reservations begin May 26.)

## Beginning Atlatl

June 18 • Saturday • 8 – 10 a.m.

(Ages 9 and up)

The atlatl predates the bow and arrow. In 2010 the atlatl became a legal method of harvesting a deer in MO. It is used to throw a 4 – 6 foot-long, spear-like projectile known as a dart. The atlatl is a wooden shaft approximately a foot-and-a-half long with a socket or knock at the rear to engage the dart. Learn how to use an atlatl in this hands-on class. (Reservations begin June 4.)

## Beginning Rifle

June 23 • Thursday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

Acquire the knowledge, skills and attitude necessary to safely own and use a firearm, whether for target shooting or hunting. We will cover safety, basic operation, shooting fundamentals, maintenance, ammunition for hunting or target shooting and safe firearm storage. All firearms and safety equipment will be provided. If you wish to bring your own firearm, you must bring your own factory ammunition. (Reservations begin June 9.)



## Youth .22 Rifle

June 25 • Saturday • 8 – 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 9 – 15)

Acquire the knowledge, skills and attitude necessary to safely shoot a .22 rifle. The instructors will cover safety, parts of the rifle and shooting fundamentals. All firearms and safety equipment will be provided. (Reservations begin June 11.)

*Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.*

# Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/270](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/270)

## Hunter Education Daycamp

June 6 - 10 · Monday – Friday · 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

(Ages 11 - 15)

During this week-long camp the students, ages 11 - 15, will complete the Missouri Hunter Education Certification requirements along with additional training in rifle, shotgun, archery, and other activities. These activities will include indoor classroom activities and outdoor activities. Dress for the weather; bring a sack lunch and drinks. Insect repellent and sunscreen may be useful. Each morning we will meet at the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin May 6.)

## Basic Archery

June 18 · Saturday · 9 a.m. – noon

(Ages 9 and up)

This program provides students with an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to safely participate in this fun and rewarding outdoor activity. All equipment and materials will be provided for this Basic Archery class. This course will meet in the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. Our instructors will help all participants develop their archery skills as we cover types of bows, parts of the bow and arrow, proper stance, grip, form, release, and other important tips and techniques. Children ages 9 - 16 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin May 18.)



Due to the range closure, all Busch Range programs will be held at the Busch Conservation Area classrooms in the St. Louis Regional Office unless otherwise noted.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to register Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

## Archery Day Camp

June 22 · Wednesday · 9 a.m. – noon

(Ages 9 – 15)

This two-day program provides students with an opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge needed to safely participate in this fun and rewarding outdoor activity. All equipment and materials will be provided. This course will meet in the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. Our instructors will help all participants develop their archery skills as we cover types of bows, parts of the bow and arrow, proper stance, grip, form, release, and other important tips and techniques. Students will also be introduced to Atlatl. (Reservations begin May 23.)

*Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.*



# Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/271](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/271)



From I-44 east take the Watson Road exit and turn left on Geyer. Cross over the bridge and turn left on Cragwold Road. Follow one mile to the entrance. Enjoy nature exhibits, attend programs, purchase hunting and fishing permits, browse through a nature-related gift shop, and pick up free conservation brochures. Outdoors, enjoy three miles of hiking trails through oak-hickory forest.

## HOURS:

Building: Tuesday – Saturday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Area: Daily: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. DST  
8 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST

Programs are free. Call **314-301-1500** to register. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

## Boy Scout Forestry Special – Interview the Forester

June 7 • Tuesday • 3 – 5 p.m.

*(Boy Scouts only)*

Don't miss this opportunity to meet and interview the forester before you go to summer camp. This program will cover the following requirements for the Forestry Merit Badge: Forestry: 1 (c); 3 (a); 4; 5 (a); 6 (a); and 7. and general information on related forestry topics for Cub Scout and Webelo badge requirements. Scouts must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin May 24.)

## Wildflower Arrangements with Judy

June 8 • Wednesday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.  
*(Adults)*

Join us as we delve into the world of wildflowers. We will begin by taking a walk through our own native wildflower garden. Then we will go inside to learn about the benefits of planting Missouri native wildflowers. The program will end with a workshop on wildflower arrangements. Flowers and vases will be provided. (Reservations begin May 25.)

## Animal Olympic Games

June 9 • Thursday • 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
*(Ages 7 – 10)*

Humans are not the only animals that can be athletes. Come and be a part of the Animal Olympic Games. We will investigate who are the strongest, fastest, and smartest animal athletes in Missouri, as we prepare for the 2016 Summer Olympics. Discover how you measure up to these Critter Olympians. (Reservations begin May 26.)

## You and Me under the Canopy

June 22 • Wednesday • 10 – 11 a.m.  
*(Ages 2 – 6)*

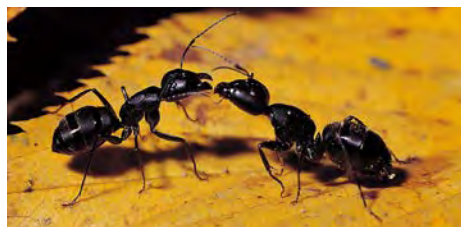
Come see the topic we are exploring this month. Families, meet in the nature center lobby for a "nature" adventure. Make sure to dress for the weather because we won't be in the building long. Everyone will hike with the naturalist to a special place in the forest and enjoy a nature story under the tree canopy. Siblings are welcome. In case of inclement weather the program will be indoors and may be shortened. (Reservations begin June 8.)

## Discover Nature Summer: Creepy Crawlies

June 24 • Friday • 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. and 1 – 3 p.m.

*(All ages/groups and camps welcome)*

Discover the world of insects, spiders and other crawling critters. Visit the different stations at your own pace. Indoor and outdoor activities available (weather permitting). (Reservations required for groups of 10 or more and begin immediately.)



## Getting Antsy

June 28 • Tuesday • 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
*(Ages 6 and up)*

What kind of animal eats more insects than birds do? What moves more dirt around than earthworms? What lives an even more structured social life than bees? Hint: it has 6 legs and lives underground. Yes! It's the ant! In this program we will discover more about ants and their astonishing variety of life styles. (Reservations begin June 14.)

## Nature's Connections

June 30 • Thursday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.  
*(Ages 3 – 6)*

We are each intricately connected to nature in so many ways. In this program, we will read a beautifully illustrated book that focuses on some of these connections. We will also take a hike to make our own connections out in the forest. A take-home craft will be included in the program. (Reservations begin June 16.)

To save paper, sign up to receive a direct link on-line to Conservation Connections by visiting [www.mdc.mo.gov/govdelivery](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/govdelivery). Enter your email and subscribe to "News, Events and Newsletters - St. Louis Region."

# Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/271](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/271)

## Discover Nature through Music with John Nilsen at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

June 24 • Friday • 7 PM

(Ages 12 and up)

Immerse yourself in nature through the music of John Nilsen and the photography of Missouri Department of Conservation photographer, Noppadol Paothong. As one of the Northwest's largest selling musical artists, John began studying classical piano at age 6. Since then, his music has touched the lives of millions of listeners. John gains inspiration for his music through the beauty of nature. His latest release, *Local Ocean*, will be out this summer. John comes to us from Oregon to perform. (Please call for reservations.)

*"As a performer, I like exploring beyond the boundaries of my recorded songs. It gives me the chance to offer something special, spontaneous and personal to my audience. The entire performance hinges on the connection not only between the players, but with the audience as well."* ~ John Nilsen ~



## Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/10254](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/10254)



From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Blvd, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first right onto Grand Ave. The visitor's center is on the right.

### HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-6014** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Forest Park Office is relocating to South St. Louis. While the move is underway, reservations will be handled through the Columbia Bottom Conservation Area office at **314-877-6014** Wednesday - Sunday.

### Beginning Archery

June 8 • Wednesday • 10 – noon

(Ages 9 and up)

Ready, Aim, Fire! Come and learn the basics of safe archery and practice your skills in an open field with stationary targets. All equipment will be provided. The entire program will be outdoors, so please dress for the weather. Younger siblings are welcome to observe; however, the equipment may only be used by those who are 9 years and up. This program will meet at the Forest Park Hatchery and Educational Fishing Lakes. A map will be sent to participants. (Reservations begin May 25.)

### Kids Fishing Lessons

June – September • Saturdays • 10 a.m. – noon

June – July • Tuesdays • 6 – 8 p.m.

(Age 7 – 15)

Join us for a series of free fishing lessons for young anglers and create a new family outdoor tradition! The Discover Nature – Fishing program allows participants to learn all the basics of fishing including safety, casting, knot tying, baiting a hook, lure use, and fish biology. Lessons are offered continually throughout the summer at Bellefontaine CA, Busch CA, Suson Park and Forest Park. All equipment is provided. Adults must accompany children and may fish alongside them. For additional information, class schedule, and online registration please visit [DiscoverFishingSTL.com](http://DiscoverFishingSTL.com). (Registration now open.)

# Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/298](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/298)



From I-270 north, take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

## HOURS:

Building: Wednesday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday – Sunday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Area: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-6014** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

## Dog Day at CBCA

June 4 • Saturday • 9 – 11 a.m.

(All Ages)

If you are a dog-lover, this is the hike for you! Bring your dog to enjoy the outdoors and discover the beauty of Columbia Bottom. All animals must be on-leash at all times. We will have a meet-and-greet at the Slough Parking Lot, and then enjoy a walk through the woods to the Confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and back. Anyone can participate, with or without a dog. Only one dog per human. A Rabies certificate good through the day of program MUST be provided. Reservations required. (Reservations begin on May 21.)

## Bee Bath

June 8 • Wednesday • 10 a.m. – noon  
(8 and up)

You have heard of bird baths, but have you ever heard of a bee bath? Learn about bees, why they are important, and what you can do to help them out. Participants will be able to make their own bee bath to take home with them. We will be working with acrylic paint so please bring a smock or clothes that can be ruined. (Reservations begin May 25).

## Nature Knots and Para cord Bracelets

June 11 • Saturday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.  
(Ages 10 and up)

Being in nature can sometimes be tough. Para cord wristbands can make the adventure a little more bearable. We will learn about helpful knots and how to make a para cord wristband. You can take your new skills and wristband home to share with dad, someone special, or keep it for yourself. Meet at the Visitor Center pavilion. (Reservations begin May 28.)

## Preparing Fillets for the Frying Pan

June 18 • Saturday • 9 – 11:30 a.m.  
(Ages 10 and up)

After a successful day of fishing, what do you do with the “big one” that did not get away? Clean and filet them, of course. Join us as we practice cleaning a few different types of fish. If you have a favorite filleting knife bring it along, or you can use one of ours. Participants under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin June 4.)

## Golden Hour at the Confluence

June 25 • Saturday • 5:15 – 6:30 a.m.  
(Ages 15 and up)

There’s no better time to discover the beauty of nature than when the morning sky changes colors from dawn to daylight. Bring your camera to take advantage of what photographers call the “golden hour.” Later, share some of your photos with us so that we may display them in the Visitor Center. Meet at the Columbia Bottom front entrance. (Reservations begin June 8.)

## Kids Fishing Lessons

June – September • Saturdays • 10 a.m. – noon

June – July • Tuesdays • 6 – 8 p.m.

(Age 7 – 15)

Join us for a series of free fishing lessons for young anglers and create a new family outdoor tradition! The Discover Nature – Fishing program allows participants to learn all the basics of fishing including safety, casting, knot tying, baiting a hook, lure use, and fish biology. Lessons are offered continually throughout the summer at Bellefontaine CA, Busch CA, Suson Park and Forest Park. All equipment is provided. Adults must accompany children and may fish alongside them. For additional information, class schedule, and online registration please visit [DiscoverFishingSTL.com](http://DiscoverFishingSTL.com). (Registration now open.)



# August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/300](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/300)

## Nature Journaling at Shaw Nature Reserve

June 1 • Wednesday • 10 a.m. through  
June 2 • Thursday • 3 p.m.

(Adults 21 and up)

Prairies, wetlands, and woodlands offer a variety of nature journaling opportunities for this two day, overnight event at Shaw Nature Reserve! MDC Volunteer Naturalists, Angie Jungbluth and Pat Burrell-Standley, will provide guidance to help you utilize doodles, sketches, and writing to improve your observational skills while helping you create interesting and informative journal pages. We'll then have the opportunity to try out these techniques as we explore Shaw Nature Reserve. All levels of artists, beginner to expert, are welcome. (Reservations begin April 25.)



## Marais Temps Clair CA Hike – Birds and other animals

June 4 • Saturday • 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(Ages 12 and up)

Join us for an early morning 5 mile hike at the Marais Temps Clair (MTC) Conservation Area. We will be looking for resident birds and other animals that make their home at MTC. Your MDC hiking guides will provide spotting scopes to view the wildlife from a distance. Birds are most active in the early morning hours. This is a great time of the year for a hike to see what lives in the marsh habitat of MTC. (Reservations begin May 20.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approximately two miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

### HOURS:

Building: Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Area: Daily: 4 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

## Introduction to Bowfishing

June 16 • Thursday • 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

June 18 • Saturday • 8 a.m. – noon

(Ages 12 and up)

This introductory two-day program is for beginners who want to learn how to get started in this exciting sport. We will go over the safety aspects, proper gear, fish ID, regulations, and ethics while in the classroom. All participants who attend the first day will have the opportunity to use department provided gear with guidance from staff on the second day (Field day location is dependent on water levels and accessibility). You must attend day one in order to participate on day two. A valid fishing or hunting permit is required in order to attend this program (15 years of age or younger / 65 years of age or older are exempt). (Reservations begin June 3.)

## Kids Fishing Lessons

June – September • Saturdays • 10 a.m. – noon

June – July • Tuesdays • 6 – 8 p.m.

(Age 7 – 15)

Join us for a series of free fishing lessons for young anglers and create a new family outdoor tradition! The Discover Nature – Fishing program allows participants to learn all the basics of fishing including safety, casting, knot tying, baiting a hook, lure use, and fish biology. Lessons are offered continually throughout the summer at Bellefontaine CA, Busch CA, Suson Park and Forest Park. All equipment is provided. Adults must accompany children and may fish alongside them. For additional information, class schedule, and online registration please visit [DiscoverFishingSTL.com](http://DiscoverFishingSTL.com). (Registration now open.)

# Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 • [mdc.mo.gov/node/272](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/272)



From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

## HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Area: Sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **636-458-2236** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

## Backpacking for Beginners

June 3 • Friday • 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

*(Families ages 10 and up)*

Interested in backpacking, but not sure where to start? Join us for an afternoon of backpacking basics. Learn what to pack, how to pack it, and how to be safe. We will end the day with a short hike with loaded packs, so bring your hiking shoes! All other equipment will be provided. (Reservations begin May 20.)



## Upcoming Program: Mini-Adventure Camp!

July 6 – 7 • Wednesday and Thursday • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

*(Ages 10 – 14)*

Explore the trails and habitats at Rockwoods Reservation! This “mini” camp will include hikes, aquatic studies, outdoor skills, live animals, and more! Participants must sign up for both days, and bring a lunch and water bottle each day.

Completed registration, including a permission form and emergency contact sheet, must be received by June 6. Applicants will then be selected for camp through a lottery system. Please call Rockwoods to request an application. (Applications are available beginning May 4.)



## Learn to Paddle: Lake Canoeing

June 9, 14, 23, 27 • One session per family • 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

*(Ages 10 and up)*

New to canoeing? Want to learn new skills, or brush up on old ones? This program is for you! Learn basic canoeing skills and safety on Lake Lincoln at Cuivre River State Park from American Canoe Association-certified instructors. This class is required in order to participate in our river floats in July. June 27 is for women only.

Logistics: All participants must be able to swim. At least one participant per canoe must be over the age of 18. Pre-float instructions provided once registered. (Reservations begin May 26.)